What is claimed is:

1.   1.   A method comprising:

2.   detecting a user input;

3.   in response to the detection of a user input,

4. generating a graphical user interface before the operating

5. system has booted;

6.   receiving an input from the user through said

7. graphical user interface; and

8.   booting the operating system.

1.   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein detecting a user

2. input includes detecting the operation of a push button.

1.   3.   The method of claim 1 wherein generating a

2. graphical user interface includes generating a graphical

3. user interface using a graphics controller.

1.   4.   The method of claim 3 including storing

2. information for generating said graphical user interface on

3. an option memory.

1.   5.   The method of claim 1 including using boot code

2. running on a graphics controller to generate the graphical

3. user interface.

1   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein generating a
2   graphical user interface includes generating a graphical
3   user interface to enable the user to input a password.

1   7.   The method of claim 6 wherein generating a
2   graphical user interface includes generating an on-screen
3   keyboard.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 including receiving inputs
2   from the user through the graphical user interface without
3   a keyboard.

1   9.   The method of claim 1 including authenticating a
2   user and allowing the operating system to boot if the user
3   has been authenticated.

1   10.   The method of claim 9 including receiving a
2   password entered without a keyboard using the graphical
3   user interface.

1   11.   An article comprising a medium storing
2   instructions that enables a processor-based system to:
3   detect a user input;
4   generate a graphical user interface before the
5   operating system has booted;

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6   receive an input from the user through said
7   graphical user interface; and
8   boot the operating system.

1   12.   The article of claim 11 wherein said medium
2   stores instructions that enable the processor-based system
3   to detect the operation of a push button.

1   13.   The article of claim 11 wherein said medium
2   stores instructions that enable the processor-based system
3   to generate a graphical user interface using a graphics
4   controller.

1   14.   The article of claim 13 wherein said medium
2   stores instructions that enable the processor-based system
3   to generate said graphical user interface on an option
4   memory.

1   15.   The article of claim 11 wherein said medium
2   stores instructions that enable the processor-based system
3   to use the boot code running on a graphics controller to
4   generate the graphical user interface.

1   16.   The article of claim 11 wherein said medium
2   stores instructions that enable the processor-based system

3   to generate a graphical user interface to enable the user

4   to input a password.

1   17.   The article of claim 16 wherein said medium

2   stores instructions that enable the processor-based system

3   to generate an on-screen keyboard.

1   18.   The article of claim 11 wherein said medium

2   stores instructions that enable the processor-based system

3   to receive inputs from the user through the graphical user

4   interface without a keyboard.

1   19.   The article of claim 11 wherein said medium

2   stores instructions that enable the processor-based system

3   to authenticate a user and allow the operating system to

4   boot if the user has been authenticated.

1   20.   The article of claim 19 wherein said medium

2   stores instructions that enable the processor-based system

3   to receive a password entered without a keyboard using the

4   graphical user interface.

1   21.   A system comprising:

2   a processor;

3   a storage coupled to said processor; and

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4   a graphics controller coupled to said storage to

5   generate a graphical user interface before the operating

6   system has booted.

1   22. The system of claim 21 wherein said system does

2   not include a keyboard.

1   23. The system of claim 21 including a touch screen

2   display.

1   24. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage

2   stores instructions that enable the processor to

3   automatically boot the operating system when a user input

4   is received through a graphical user interface before the

5   operating system is booted.

1   25. The system of claim 21 including an option read

2   only memory that stores information to generate a graphical

3   user interface for the entry of a password prior to booting

4   of a operating system.

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